

Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATION COMMISSION
Washington, D. C. 20554

In the Matter of
Connect America Fund
Wireline Competition Bureau
National Broadband Map
Connect America Phase I incremental support

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WC Docket No. 10-90

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ADVOCATING ON BEHALF OF THE CITIZENS OF THE LEECH LAKE RESERVATION
THE LEECH LAKE BAND OF OJIBWE TRIBAL COUNCIL FORMALLY SUBMITS NOTICE

The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe is a federally recognized Indian Tribe organized under Section 16 of the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934. The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe is one of six member-Bands of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Tribal Council is duly elected and is the authorized governing body of the Leech Lake Reservation. The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Tribal Council is responsible for protecting and advocating for the health and welfare of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe citizen members.

The Leech Lake Reservation is located in rural north-central Minnesota, approximately 235 miles north of Minneapolis/St. Paul and 100 miles south of the Canadian border. It is a rural area covering approximately 1,000 square miles of forest and water systems. Fourteen citizen member communities lie within the reservation boundaries. The reservation is split among four counties; Cass, Itasca, Beltrami, and Hubbard county.

The natural environment and the social and economic environments are dichotomous. The landscape is picturesque, encompassing northern woods and bountiful water systems and encompasses the Chippewa National Forest. The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe exhibits the social and economic environments characterized by challenges often seen in developing nations.

Approximately 45% of Tribal Citizens living on the Reservation live below the Federal and State of Minnesota Poverty Guidelines. Utilizing USDA's Guaranteed Housing Program Income Limits standards - moderate family income of \$69,700 and low income of \$39,150 ? and applying an

average of 4.0 family members per American Indian family, 91% of our American Indian service population is at low- to moderate-income level. See below:

Total Families Under \$60,000 930 91.00%

Total Families Under \$40,000 797 78.00%

The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe is a sovereign American Indian government whose citizens are valued and respected by the Reservation Tribal Council. Therefore, on behalf of the citizens of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, the following broadband relevant notice is served:

1) The evidence of broadband un-served areas within the jurisdictional boundaries of the Leech lake Band of Ojibwe is currently reported patently defective with census blocks in price cap and rate of return territories within the jurisdictional boundaries of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe. Furthermore, the price cap and rate of return carriers do not recognize the jurisdictional boundaries of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe. Current maps display nearly 100% broadband coverage where there is less than 100% coverage, i.e., specifically within the Chippewa National Forest and duly noted where Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe communities exist ? Attachment A - Leech Lake Reservation Wireless Broadband Availability and Attachment B ? Leech Lake Reservation Connect America Fund Phase 1 Eligible Areas, January 4, 2012.

2) In this regard, the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe seeks an extension of time to formulate and identify with validity the areas of Reservation land that lack broadband services and where broadband services are provided while the expense is far greater than the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe citizens may afford.

3) The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe intends to ensure funds for broadband services to its under-served and un-served areas that will benefit its citizens by working collaboratively with Connected Nation with on-site field validation and Turtle Island Communication for engineering assessments within the jurisdictional boundaries of the Leech Lake Reservation.

4) The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe requests the Federal Communications Commission to delay Connect America Funds from distribution to the areas within the jurisdictional boundaries of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe until the appropriate study and engineering assessments have been conducted by the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe.

5) The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe challenges Qwest aka Century Link for overstating broadband services within the jurisdictional boundaries of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe.

In conclusion, the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, as a sovereign American Indian nation expects such future comments and filings will benefit the broadband un-served and under-served communities of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe member citizens and all other citizens within its jurisdictional

boundaries.

Respectfully submitted,

//s//

Carri Jones, Chair

Donald Finn, Secretary/Treasurer

Leroy Fairbanks, District III Representative

Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe

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